

# **Notebooks of James Gillespie Hamilton, a merchant of old Westport, Missouri (1844-1858). Transcribed and edited by Katharine Jones Moore**

## NOTEBOOKS OF JAMES GILLESPIE HAMILTON

A Merchant of Old Westport, Missouri

(1844-1858)

A Sequel to "Dear Cornelia" -

A Series of Letters Written in 1857-1858

by James Hamilton to his Wife, Cornelia -

Transcribed and copyrighted in 1951

by Katharine Jones Moore, their grand-daughter

NOTEBOOKS COURTESY OF FEARN HAMILTON CROSS

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED BY KATHARINE JONES MOORE

NOTEBOOKS OF JAMES GILLESPIE HAMILTON (1844-1858)

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By

Fearn Hamilton Cross 1509 West Ninth Stillwater, Oklahoma

and

Katharine Jones Moore 3544 Kerekhoff Avenue 1374 Linden Fresno, California

This copy is for:

Who is a son (or daughter) of

““ “ “ (or daughter) of

““ “ “ (or daughter) of

### **NOTEBOOKS OF JAMES GILLESPIE HAMILTON**

Due to the efforts of the Native Sons of Kansas City, Missouri old Union Cemetery remains as a pioneer memorial in the busy district of Twenty-eighth Street and Warwick traffic-way. In this quiet spot there are no wraiths, no memory of parting tears—only the calm and joyful remembering of lives well spent, the recognition of the immortality of courage, industry, intelligence applied, and love of life and mankind. The names carved on shafts of stone are the identification marks of men and women who nurtured old Westport, whose spirit survived to build a great and beautiful Kansas City. Here, somehow, the cacophony of traffic is muted, and it is not difficult to picture these people busily founding homes and industries in an era of rapid expansion—thrilling to the symphony of hoof-beats, rolling wagon wheels, and gay farewells of the emigrants traveling the Santa Fe Trail. One reads a name and ponders: “I should like to know that person, should like to hear him speak, and see the laughter of friendship in his eyes—exchange ideas with him!” And then, suddenly and unexpectedly perhaps one does meet him personally—through a bit of history, a letter, a faded picture, or a diary.

One grey sandstone monument bears the name of HAMILTON - James G. and Cornelia. Statistics tell us that James G. Hamilton was born in Virginia in 1816, died in Westport, Mo., August 27, 1869; that Cornelia O. Bernard (Hamilton) was born at Waynesborough, Virginia on January 24,

1822, died in La Veta, Colorado, February 26, 1912. Bits of biography have been found in clippings and letters, and an intimate, vivid unfoldment of the family life of James Gillespie and Cornelia Bernard Hamilton has come through the series of letters written in 1857 and 1858 by James to Cornelia as he made his first trip overland to California. These were copyrighted by me in 1951 under the title "My Dear Cornelia..." with a brief preface containing historical bits pieced together like an incomplete jig-saw puzzle. On page II of the preface of "My Dear Cornelia" it is stated that Cornelia married James G. Hamilton in 1836. We now find that "In 1836 she accompanied her parents to Missouri and in 1844 settled at Kansas City, then known as Westport Landing, where on May 15 of the same year she married James G. Hamilton, a merchant of Callaway Co." The clipping advising of the death of James G. Hamilton tells nothing of the events of his life, but rather is a brief eulogy concerning his "quiet, godly, and efficient life." We do know that his father was John Hamilton, and of John Hamilton's character we have a hint in a letter written January 28, 1944 from Callaway County, addressed to Mr. A. G. Boone, Westport, Jackson County, Mo. with the salutation, "My dear Children." Col. A. G. Boone, grandson of the famous Daniel Boone, established a trading post in 1836, which at the time of the publication of the Centennial map of Kansas City, in 1950, was still standing on the N. W. Corner of Westport and Penn. From "The Old California Trail—Traces in Folklore and Furrow by Julia Cooley Altrocchi (1945, Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho) in writing of Independence, Missouri, is this interesting bit: "The very first white comer, so the legend goes, was Daniel Morgan Boone—third son of Daniel Boone who crossed the wilderness alone from Kentucky and trapped beaver in the vicinity for twelve years... It was the best beaver place he had discovered....The little landing and loading place, Westport, down by the river, out of which the great metropolis of Kansas City grew to smite the sky, was hidden by ridges and trees from Independence." No doubt Col. Albert G. Boone was the son of Daniel Morgan Boone. It was this Col. Boone who was the recipient of John Hamilton's letter—he was the husband of John Hamilton's daughter, Ann Reid Hamilton. The letter reveals that John Hamilton, too, was a devoted family man, that he had an affectionate interest in his friends, and that his great concern was to lead a Christian life in order to be prepared for a future, heavenly reward, when called from this life of worldly sin. From a message in the letter we assume that James Gillespie, the eligible bachelor of the family, was living in Westport, and that either he had not informed his

father of his approaching May marriage to the charming Cornelia Bernard, or his engagement was a short one, for the message is: "Tell James he ought to been here a few days ago—all the girls in the neighborhood was here." Apparently James had already transferred his business (and heart!) interests to Westport.

And now—Fearn Hamilton Cross of Stillwater, Oklahoma, daughter of Hays Hamilton, youngest son of James Gillespie Hamilton, and Katharine Jones Moore, daughter of Ella Hamilton Jones, seventh child of James Gillespie Hamilton, share with you graphic intermittent scenes from his private life from December 1844 to July 1864—as gleaned from two little leatherbound memorandum books. These books, although obviously filled with random jottings show the meticulous care which we well conclude characterized his formal business account books and ledgers,—whether in ink or pencil in small, legible, and neat handwriting. Although his grammar and spelling are not always perfect, his high intelligence and keen attention to people and facts are reflected in all entries. These are not always chronological, which indicates that he evidently utilized blank pages at various times.

Tho earliest notes are in a small tan book. On the back of the front cover we find:

"Memo of wood from Wm. Matney 1847 March 1st - 1 Load (hawld by Matney " 13 1/2 cord " " H  
" 15 1/2 " " " Bon " 18 1/2 " " " " (small load) May 1847 - above a/c settled - JGH

C. Finley (5th) 5th March 1838 J. G. H. 14th " 1838

"The first Potawatomie payments I was ever at was Christmas, 1838

3

On the first page we find:

"Commenced housekeeping 7th Dec., 1844. at A. B. McGee farm, left 1st March, 1847 and moved to Johnson house. Kitty commenced on Thursday 16th Jany (45 " went home " " 6th Febry.

The Fool Chief was killed by one of his own tribe near the Shawnee meeting house on Tuesday 28th Jany, 1845 he was the principle chief of the Kaw tribe. A very (? torn) man and a great scoundrel.

March 24/45 To make Scout Corn. Pull the corn as soon as it is in roasting, not too old, and boil it until it is nearly cooked sufficient to eat and then shell it and spread it out to dry and you will have what is called scout corn. tho squaw corn is the kind to make it of Some roast the corn but boiling is pref (?)(faded)”

The population of Westport in 1846 was 700 - we can well imagine that a good portion of that population was known by the “merchant James G. Hamilton”—that he served them in his store, that he swapped family news, recipes, formulas, and home remedies with them. The next few pages contain some of them:

#### Recipe for Whitewashing

“Take half a bushel unslacked lime and slack it with boiling hot water cover it during the process. Strain it and add a pack of salt dissolved in warm water. three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste put in boiling hot, half a pound of powdered Spanish whiting, and a pound of clear glue, dissolved in warm water. Mix, and let it stand for several days, then keep it in a kettle on a portable furnace and put on as hot as possible, with a painting or whitewash brush.

May 8th, 1845 J. G. H.

#### A Remedy for Sore Throat

“Mix a penny worth of pounded camphor with a wine glass of brandy pour a small quantity on a lump of sugar, and allow it to dissolve in the mouth every hour, the third or fourth generally enables the patient to swallow with ease.

Dec. 20th, 1845 (Medical Journal)

### A Cure for the Toothache

“1 tablespoon full spirits 1 “ “ “ vinegar 1 tea “ “ salt Mix them together and hold the liquor in your month, it will give immediate relief. March 10th, 1847”

4

The Shawnee, Kansas, Miami, Wyandot, and Potawatimée Indians who figured prominently in the early history of Missouri and Kansas were his friends. I recall that in my childhood my adored grandmother told me of how his Indian friends came to pay him silent and incoherent tribute during his illness.

From Francis Parkman's famous book on the Oregon Trail we have this observation as he passed through Westport in April, 1846: “Westport was full of Indians, whose little shaggy ponies were tied by the dozens along the houses and fences. Sacs and Foxes, with shaved heads and painted faces, Shawanoes, and Delawares, fluttering in calico frocks and turbans, Wyandots dressed like white man, and a few wretched Kansas wrapped in old blankets, were strolling about the streets, or lounging in and out of the shops and houses.” On his return in September Francis Parkman suggests that Indians had ceased to be a novelty, for he paints a nostalgic portrait of the village: “At length for the first time during about half a year, we saw the roof of a white man's dwelling between the opening trees. A few moments after, we were riding over the miserable log-bridge that leads into the center of Westport... We passed the well-remembered tavern, Boone's grocery, and old Vogel's dramshop, and encamped on a meadow beyond.

The preceding historical bits seem to blend with the next few pages of James G. Hamilton's notebook:

“Wawalapi one of the principal chiefs of the Shawnee Indians died on the 3d Oct. 1843 with consumption, he was a member of the Methodist church and one of the most talented Shawnees I ever knew, and the greatest orator in the tribe, he was a man of great influence with his people which was very unfortunate for them as he was a very extravagant man and cost his nation large

sums of money which was appropriated to his own use, while many of his people were suffered to go in want and suffer for food and raiment while their chief lived on the good things of this world; Indians of influence are generally extravagant and get in debt to the traders and of course the trader will make an effort to collect his money and his only resort is to make the nation pay those debts which are contracted by individuals. This is very unfair to those who are not indebted to the trader taking their money to pay the debts of the extravagant chiefs who prefer to do business for their nation on the most honourable terms and at the same time will take half or the whole of the annuity every year and appropriate it to their own use. This rascally practice prevails with the savage as well as the whites who are in office and have the power to play the game. J. G. H.”

“John Perry the principal chief of the Shawnee nation died Nov. 16th 1845 he was quite an old man and was disposed to doo his nation justice but unfortunately he was under the influence of men who had not the good of their tribe at heart, but would sacrifice the interest of their people to accomplish measures suited to their own interests. he was a friend to the whites and treated them well when ever they called at his house. I once staid all night with the old chief he gave me the best he had for 5 supper and at bed time he and his wife gave up their only bed and told me to sleep in it, they would take their blankets and sleep on the floor as the night was quite cold and I having but one blanket with me accepted their offer, I often think of this this good trate in the Indian character if a white man stops with them they will give him the best they have and use every means in their power to make him comfortable. their are many trates in the Indian character which is excellent. I believe to take the Indian in his natural state he is honourable and has a desire to doo right according to their rules and regulations, I never knew an Indian who did not believe there was a god or as they say the great Spirit, who they worship and fear. J. G. H.”

“A treaty was concluded on the 14th (or 16th) January (46) with the Kansas Indians by Maj. Harvy Supr-intendent of Indian affairs at St. Louis and Maj. Cummins their agent, they bought about two million of acres for ten cents and one mill per acre, they receive ten thousand dollars annually from Government this being the interest on the amt of their proceeds of their land, one thousand dollars to be appropriated for schooling purposes, one thousand dollars for agricultural purposes, eight

thousand dollars to be divided amongst the Indians. this is far the best treaty the Kansas Indians ever made, they were located at Council Grove in 1847.

“Henry Clay one of the Shawnee chiefs died on 4th April 1846 at his residence on Cedar Creek he was an educated man and an Indian of fine talents, and could have been one of the foremost men of his tribe if he could have had moral honesty, but unfortunately he was destitute of that good quality, and therefore he was put down several times by the other chiefs and denounced as a chief, but having superior talents to most of chiefs he would manage to rise and take his seat in the councils as chiefs, and through fear they were compelled to recognise him as a chief until his death (two lines here have been deleted) April 5th 1846 J. G. H.

“Blackboddy or Cottawahcothi one of the Shawnee chiefs or councilors died on Wednesday morning the 8th April 1846 he was one of the principle medicine men of the nation, he was disposed to do right and paid his debts which is considered one of the best traits in the Indian character he was very much addicted to dissipation which no doubt was one cause of his death as he was a young and stout man. J. G. H.

“The Miami Indians moved to their land on the Osage river in November 1847, the change of climate and the change of living produced disease amongst them, which swept the poor creatures off by dozens, they are the remnant of a once large and warlike people, they now only number about 500 souls. March 18th, 1847

“Part of the six nations from New York emigrated to their lands on the Neosho in July 1849, they also fell a prey to disease and died off by great numbers, becoming discouraged they began to scatter, some returned to New York and others remained on their land while some went to their neighbor tribes and began to live on their land, some 30 of the band lived on the Shawnee land during the winter and will probably remain with the Shawnee Indians as they have a rich and healthy country, and the lands of the six nations is quite the reverse. March 18th 1849”

“The Wyandot Indians emigrated to the west in 1843 and not being pleased with the land ceded to them by government, they bought land of the Delaware Indians on the Missouri River immediately



above the mouth of the Kansas river, which is a very rich and beautiful tract of land, they died by hundreds near one half of the tribe died during the first two years. March 18th, 1847”

“The Potawatimee Indians concluded a treaty with the U. S. in 1847 in which treaty they sell their land laying on the Missouri river at Council bluffs and their land on the Osage river, and settle on the Kansas river on the land purchased by the U. S. from the Kansas Indians.

And now - another formula for whitewash, jotted down hastily with pencil:

“An excellent white wash. Take 16# of Paris-white, add 1/2 # of white transparent glue.

“Cover the glue over with cold water at night - in the morning is carefully heated until dissolved. Stir in the Paris-white with hot water to give it the proper consistency for applying to the wall, the dissolved glue is then added and thoroughly mixed,—then apply in the ordinary way. A very dark wall requires 2 coats. It is nearly equal in brilliancy to zinc white.”

On the next page is a notation of a discovery concerning the Bible, which we know he loved:

“The 19th chapter 2d Book of Kings, and 37th Chapter of Isaiah, are precisely alike, the book of Kings was written 590 years B. C. that of Isaiah 698 years B. C. an interval of 108 years.”

This was immediately followed by a practical rule and accurate sketch:

“To measure land multiply the length by the breadth and divide by 4830 which will give the number of acres, 69 1/2 yds square make one acre.” Beside the sketch is written: “A range line divides the townships. each township has 36 sections and 640 acres is a section. 6 miles square is a township 1 mile square is a section.

Six pages of recipes, formulas and home prescriptions:

7

### CURE HORSES OF BOTTS

“To make the bot let go its hold, give the horse a quart of molasses, with a quart of sweet milk—in thirty minutes you will find the horse at ease: then pulverize one eighth of a pound of alum, dissolve it in a quart of warm water, and drench your horse—after which, in two hours or less, give the horse one pound of salts, and you will find the bots in his dung, this is a certin cure;

The molasses and sweet milk cause the bot to let go and prey upon the sweetning—the alum contracts him, and the salts pass him off. Nov. 21th 1847”

#### TO CORN BEEF

“Make 6 gallons of pickle strong enough to bear an egg. Three quarters of a pound of saltpetre dissolved in cold water before it is put in the pickle — 2 tablespoons full of caenne pepper — 1 table spoon full of pearlash (?) — 2 qts molasses — lay the beef in cold water for 1 night — and then let it hang up two days before putting on the pickle. Hams cured in the same way except that they must be well rubbed with fine salt and molasses before being put in the pickle. let them remain in pickle six weeks before smoking — if for immediate use the pickle should be warm.” Dec. 30th 1847

#### CURE FOR SNAKE BITES

“Paint the bitten part over the whole swelling with three or four coats of the tincture of iodine twice a day, renewing the application when the swelling extends, which it often does at the first application, if made while the wound is fresh. May 15th 1849 Dr. Whitmine”

#### TO DESTROY CATERPILLARS

“Take a half inch auger and bore as nearly as possible into the heart of the tree, fill the hole with sulpher, plug it with a branch out from the same tree. Make it air tight, and in forty eight hours the result is seen. Bas Cultivaler. May 15th 1849”

#### STRETCHES IN SHEEP

“One gill of new rum, sweetened with molasses, and administered as a drench.

It causes a relaxation of the system, and has cured every case I have tried. Bas Cultivaler.”

“To four ounces of fresh lime water add a drachm of Peruvian barks: wash the teeth with this water before breakfast and after supper; it will effectually destroy the tartar, and remove the 8 offensive smell from those which are decayed.

Take of good soft water one quart; juice of lemon two ounces; burnt allum, six grains; common salt six grains, mix, boil them a minute in a cup, then strain and bottle for use.”

#### CURE FOR CHOLERA

“All premonitory symptoms, such as pain, a sense of fullness, unnatural movements, slight diarrhoea etc have uniformly yielded at once to a single dose of three or four grains of sulphur.

In cases when either cramp, diarrhoea or vomiting have been present, and in fact when all those symptoms, the use of sulphur, the above named dose every three or four hours has had the effect to ameliorate the condition of the patient at once, and when used in a few hours, disipate entirely cholera symptoms. June 17th 1849”

#### CURE FOR CHOLERA

1/4 oz pulverised Gum Guaiacum (?) 1/4 “ “ cloves 1/4 “ “ cinnamon 1 pt brandy (Mix and take dose, from tea to tablespoonful, each half hour, till arrested.”

These two preceding formulas, dated 1849; have historical significance, as it is noted on the 1950 Centennial map of Kansas City that in “1849 cholera takes third of population in this area.”

#### FOR FLUX

1 table spoonful castor oil 1 “ “ mutton suet 1 “ “ Godfreys cordial Loaf sugar the size of a partridge egg, one half pint new sweet milk, warm together untill thoroughly mixed and drink at one time.

### SOME PERSONAL MEMOS

(This one indicates that a dollar was worth a dollar — no inflation there!)

“James Boone commenced work 1st day of April for one year, at one hundred per year, quit in one month and went to Oregon with his father.”

“Moved in our own home 21st Sept 1847 after a great deal of trouble and vexation, as it is almost impossible to get a man to be depended upon to do you good work. Tho best plan when you want a house built is to let it out on contract and have nothing to do with the building untill it is finished and the keys delivered to you.”

9

### SOME INTERESTING ACCOUNTS

“Leo Twyman Dr. 1845 March 24 To 1 sorrel horse 50.00 Apl 5 Cr by 1 sorrel horse 45.00 Balance due 5.00 July 25 To 1 basket Potatoes Nov 1845 By settlement in full

Hamilton

“J. O. Boggs Dr. 1846 Febry 15 To 1 bushel potatoes .38 “ 28“ 1/2“ “ .19

“Robert Johnson's Estate

1847 Febry To 2 doz Glass 75 1.50 “ 1 1/2 putty 25 5# nails 50 .75 “ casing & fixing windows and doors 3.00 “ 1 pr butts & screws .37 1/2 “ fixing-smoke-house- kitchen 3.00 (over) 8.62 1/2 “To amount brot over 8.62 1/2 (crossed out)

“1847 Thomas Bernard Dr. Oct 15 to cash of John Hamilton 115.43 1848 Feby 1 Cr by cash 115.43

1848 Jun 17 Cash of Est. J. Hamilton 115.43 ”““““31.00 Sept 27“ ““““ 192.33 338.76 By cash 338.76

“Planted some potatoes 29th March”

“‘Worms’ on the face”

“Bathe the spots several times a day with luke warm water and a sponge, rubbing the sponge over a piece of yellow soap. There is a healing power in soap distinct from its cleansing properties.”

“CURE FOR SICK HORSES (Cholic)

“Take 1/2 pt whisky, 1/2 pt vinegar or water (?) red pepper, soap and boil together and give warm; a little chalk may be added. A certain cure. March 5, 1851”

10

“TO CURE A FELON”

“Take one tablespoonful of red lead, and one tablespoonful of castile soap. Mix with as much (?) as will make it soft enough to spread like salve, and apply it on the first appearance of the felon and it will cure it in ten or 12 hours. Westport Dec. 8 1857 (or 51)”

“To regulate the liver bowels & give an appetite”

To 1 pint good spirits add 1 oz sassaparilla 1/2 oz colombo 1/2“ Gentian 2 drams Aloes 2“  
Rheubard 1 nutmeg

Let stand 3 or 4 days and then take a table spoonfull before eating.”

“To measure corn in the ear, multiply the length by the breadth; that by the height in feet; that product by 4 & divide the amt by 10 & you have the no. bushels in shelled corn.

“Cure for Nursing Sore Mouth

“Use tincture myrh as a wash for the mouth.”

“Ague and Fever”

“20 grain calomel 20quinine 4 blk pepper, the oil black pepper is better. Sufficient to mix, make into pills and take one after the chill goes off, and in 3 hours take one more, three hours take one more, the next day take as above.

“THE FAMOUS HUMBOLD RECEIPT FOR CURING HAMS”

Seven pounds coarse salt, 5# brown sugar; 2 oz pearl ash & 4 gallons of water. Boil all together & scum when cold. Put it on the meat. Hams remain in eight weeks, beef three weeks. The above is for 100 lbs.

Also - when hams are taken up to hang roll the ham in air slacked lime, then hang — in the spring when the weather thaws the ham, roll again in the lime & hang again.

“TAMING HORSES”

Oil of cummin, rub on hand & horse will follow you. Castor, grated fine Oil of Rhodium Keep in seperate bottles, tight.

11

“The prepared glue so much talked of is made by dissolving common glue in warm water, and then adding strong vinegar to keep it. Dissolve 1# of best glue in 1 1/2, pints of water, and add 1 pint of vinegar; it is ready for use.”

CURE FOR BAD BREAKING OUT

“Crude Salmomac 2 drachms Corros. subliment 1 “ Water 1 1/2 pts & wash the sores, which is certain cure

## CURE FOR SCRATCHES, HORSES

“1 oz. pulv. verdigras mixed with honey or mollasses.”

“Sulpher & salt will rid stock of lice.

“To measure corn incrib or wagon, level it & multiply length, breadth & hight by 12, then multiply each together which reduce to cubic inches, then divide by 2150-2/5 which gives the no. bushels in the ear or if the load be shelled will produce the no. bus. in shelled corn. 2150-2/5 in. make a bushel, or 18 1/2 in. in diameter & 8 in. deep make a bushel.”

## CURE RHEUMATISM

“Bark from the roots prickley ash put in whiskey & made as strong as it can be used.”

74# corn in the shuck in bus. 70# “ shucked in bushel.

## TO STOP BLOOD

“Take the fine dust of tea or the scrapings of the inside of tanned leather and bind it close upon the wound, the blood will soon cease to flow.”

## CURE FOR FELON

“A poultice of onions, applied morning, noon & night three or four days will cure a felon, no matter how bad the case. Splitting the finger will be unnecessary if this poultice be used.”

(The little book was evidently pigeon-holed and brought out at a later date over a period of years. The following entry shows improvements made to a home in 1869—a few months before his passing.)

“Commencing at north side of the garden - Fruit trees set out Apl 6, 1869 - 1st Row - 3 sweet (?) 3 early harvest, 2 maden blush No. 8 2d Row - 3 maden blush, 3 early white, 2 fall Queen 8 3 Row -

3 fall Queen, 2 fall Pippin, 2 large Romanites, 1 Mo. Superior 8 4 Row - 5 Rambo, 3 Fall Queen 8 5 “ 8 Mo. Superior 8 6 “ 5 Newtown Pippin, 2 Paris Red, 1 Mo. Superior 8 7 “ 3 Paris Red, 5 N.Y. Pippin 8

## 12

(The following memo evidently refers to the home in which his family lived during his first trip to California.)

“1854 DWELLING HOUSE 6 acres land \$1100.00 Buildings & materials 4300.00 3 acres land 450.00 Fencing, etc. 550.00 \$6400.00 May 1862 Sold to Jas. Kitchen 2000.00 Loss \$4400.00”

(And it also tells another story — he sold at a loss before he and his family went overland to California in 1862)

“It was called an ‘Elegant’ House in Westport's young days. “Adjoining a lumber yard at 557 Westport Avenue stands a house that was spoken of as ‘elegant’ in the bygone days when plainsmen and traders flourished. Now it has fallen into such a state of decay that soon it will have become a memory.

“The house was built in 1852 by James Hamilton, a leading merchant and trader of his day. Like the majority of the old Westport houses, it is constructed of walnut logs covered with weather boarding. The house was sold in 1856 to Dr. J. W. Parker whose dignified dress and deportment were much commented upon in those days. Doctor Parker was a Southern sympathizer, and when the Federals captured Westport he was forced to leave the state. ...Photographs of the old house will be on sale at the Westport carnival, August 31 to September 8.”

(The preceding article was copied from a Kansas City newspaper, date unknown. Although the dates do not coincide it is evidently the home referred to in memo on page 8 of this transcription. It is augmented by the following memos in pencil, some too dim to read accurately:)



“1847 (?) of Buildings Logs Lumber Rails (?) 431.97 Carpenter bill 130.55 Stone (?) & (?) 57.97  
620. (?) Hawling rock 5.50 (?) 100.00 1850 ? Improvements on house 484.44 ? 32.00 (?) Carriage  
house 60.00 Elkins bill (door etc 8.00 \$1310.44 Lumber 100.00 ? ? for fence 10.75 \$1410.00

Dec. 1853 Sold to Dr. Parker 1500.00

### 13

(In an article in the Kansas City Star, Sunday, December 26, 1937, entitled “An Old Map Throws New Light on the Westport of 1855” is the following, which no doubt refers to the house covered by the memo at the top of page 12 of this transcription:)

“Another great house in 1855 was that of James Hamilton. It stood where the Kansas City Orphan Boys home is today, at the corner of Westport road and Belleview avenue.”

(From the same article are these interesting highlights upon the Westport of that era:

“The Halleran map settled once and for all the rumor that avaricious early citizens had filched part of Westport road. They hadn't. It always has been sixty feet wide west of Mill street, as it is today. In 1855 it was not known as Westport road, nor as Westport avenue, the name it bore for many years. It was called Main Street.

### On Edge of Civilization

“And a great main street it was. There east met West and civilization rubbed elbows with primitive Indians and plainsmen only a trifle less primitive. There well-groomed gentlemen from the East looked with amazement on the sons of the West in wide-brimmed hats, or coonskin caps, in garments of homespun cloth or of buckskin. It was the jumping-off place for the far West, for California, New Mexico and Arizona. It sold a bewildering variety of strange and fascinating wares—saddles, bridles, revolvers, rifles, wagons, salt port, buffalo skins, Spanish silver and gold bars brought from the Southwest.

“Men came to Westport on their way to make their fortunes, with hope surging high and grandiose, rosy dreams of gold and a new world. Some of them came back to Westport with such fortunes jingling in their pockets, with gold dust in their luggage and perhaps with a letter of credit from some far-off California bank. All spent freely, those who hoped to make their fortunes, and those who already had done so.

“...Fine houses grew in Westport as the result of that Santa Fe trade. Roomy old brick or frame houses they were, with low gables and wide yards around them, and gardens and living quarters for the slaves. Col. A. G. Boone lived in such a house on what is now Pennsylvania avenue, south of Thirty-ninth street terrace. Just north of him was William Bernard's house. The Bernard house was razed only recently....

“Colonel Boone ran a store in Westport that dealt in everything from groceries to negro slaves....William Bernard was in the Santa Fe trade himself....”

(Small wonder that James G. Hamilton—serving these riders of the fabulous Santa Fe Trail—who was so vitally interested in so many things—heard and twice answered the call of the West ! The letters written to “My dear Cornelia” in 1857-58 tell the story 14 of his first answer to the call. Various clippings and memoirs pieced together tell something of the second answer.

The Civil War was raging. James G. Hamilton—never really believing in slavery—had given his slaves permission to claim their freedom, which they finally did. How vividly I recall the story as told by Grandma when I was a little girl! One morning Grandma awakened to find the household very quiet—no stirring about for the morning chores. Upon investigation she found that all the servants had left, and before their departure had said by their last service, “Thank you for this home we have enjoyed.” The fires were all laid in the stoves and hearths, the table was set for breakfast, all the preliminary preparations possible for the morning meal and activities had been made, and my Mother's nurse had taken one of her two little night-caps which were kept hanging on the bed-post when not in use. The tiny tot whose nurse took this keep-sake was Ella Detter Hamilton (born in 1859).

Clippings in my possession vary—one gives 1862 and another 1863—as the year in which James and Cornelia Hamilton and their eight children crossed the plains to California, where they resided in San Jose for two years. There the late Seth Hays Hamilton, one of the founders of the town of Stillwater, Oklahoma was born. Fearn Hamilton Cross, his daughter and only child, is the present owner of those little books.

I often wonder if, somewhere in a half-forgotten trunk there might someday be found a diary of this 1863-65 journey. Until then, this account given me by Uncle John Hamilton, as we sat on his porch in the south wing of the old Francisco Plaza in La Veta, Colorado in the summer of 1930, must suffice. I wrote it down just as he told it, and in that way will share it:

(As told by John Baskin Hamilton) “James G Hamilton, his wife, Cornelia Bernard Hamilton and their children—William Bernard, James G., Jr., Ann Reid, John Baskin (born July 23, 1851), Cornelia Catherine, Bernard Finley, Ella Detter, and Fanny Buckner, — went by train, ambulance for the family, freight wagons, men on horseback. William was only son who drove a wagon. Left Calloway Co., April 3, 1863. Took what is known as the Overland Route. Crossed the Missouri River at Nebraska City. Next stop was at Julesburg, Colo. (near Greeley) a stage station. The next stop was Ft. Bridger. Next stop was Salt Lake City. Stayed there a week or ten days in camp in town. Very beautiful, wide streets, parks, trees. The children of Brigham Young entertained the children royally, as did Brigham Young and his many wives entertain the elders. They started with 150 mules. Uncle John rode the bell mare. The men who followed the cattle for protection against Indians were known as the ‘caviard.’ On the Platte between Greeley and Fort Bridger they kept the advance guard. Reported a band of Indian warriors ahead. They corraled the stock. In sign language he talked to the Indians. (Cheyennes and Arapahoes) who claimed they were friendly and told him to go on so they could get into the loose stock. The chief came down and had a pow-wow. The chief said they were after the Paiutes. Chief asked Grandpa for some tobacco and insisted on the train moving. They wanted an opportunity to stampede the stock. Grandpa, knowing their habits, would not move until they had gone on and were well out of sight. Had several false alarms. In that same country they camped within three miles of where a stage coach and station were burned—

four men were killed and one wounded. The latter came to their camp and stayed until the stage company picked him up. The mutilated bodies were buried. Final stop was San Jose, California. Grandpa sold his mules and lived there about two years. Went by boat from San Francisco—they nicknamed the old boat tho ‘Rolling Moses.’ About 700 passengers. Went by Nicaragua. From Nicaragua to New York on the ‘Golden Rule,’ a fine new vessel. Twenty-seven days from San Francisco to New York. Most of the vessels then went around the Horn, requiring six months. Travelled 12 miles by land across the isthmus to the head waters of the San Juan del Norte. They went by mule teams to the San Juan where they went by boat, then into the propeller which was anchored in a rough sea. From the propeller they went in skiffs to the ‘Golden Rule.’ Most of the family were sea sick. Each skiff carried about ten people. As the skiff rose with the waves at the ship the sailors picked up tho passengers and carried them up the rope ladders to the dock. With a skiff being unloaded on each side of the ship it required a number of hours to load. From Now York they went by rail to Mexico, Missouri, where they lived a year before returning to Westport. They crossed the Mississippi River on a boat, upon which they ran the train, as there was no bridge. Grandpa paid about \$160 each (in green backs, about \$65 in gold). The fare from San Francisco to New York was \$160 in gold.)”

And now—let's turn to the little green leather book, of the type shown in museums as “wagon train books”—with a flap and tie, and a pocket in the back.

On the reverse of the front cover and the fly leaf there are numerous pencilled notes, which have no particular sequence, although each one suggests a story of some sort. Apparently these were jotted down hurriedly as information concerning places and people came to him. One of them reads:

“Oatman family murdered on the night of the 19th March 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Oatman & 7 children was the no. of family. 2 girls taken captive by Apaches. Mary Ann (?) & Olive brought to (?) by Indians after 5 years captivity in (?)” (written in pencil, very small and dim)

(I checked on the accuracy of this notation by writing to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, whose Historical Secretary Eleanor B. Sloan, gave me the following information:)

“As to the Oatmans: This was a family, who after the breaking up of their original party in Santa Fe and many subsequent troubles, attempted to make the rest of the journey alone. On March 28, 1851 Royce Oatman and his family were attacked by 16 Apache-Mohave Indians at a point about 18 miles east of Agua Caliente. This place is now known as Oatman Flat. All but two girls and one boy were killed. The dead were later buried near what was then Burke's station, about 11 miles from the present town of Sentinel. Lorenzo, the boy, was left for dead but made his way to safety. The girls were taken captive and traded later to the Mohaves. One girl, Mary Ann died in captivity, in 1852. Olive, the elder, was finally rescued in 1856 after five years in captivity and taken to her brother in Port Yuma. The town of Oatman, originally called Vivian, was named for Olive Oatman.

“Royal B. Stratton wrote an account of the Oatmans in 1858, entitled ‘Captivity of the Oatman Girls’....This book was reprinted by the Grabhorn Press, San Francisco in 1935, under the name, Life Among The Indians or the Captivity of the Oatman Girls....It is a good account.”

(Various jottings—all in pencil): Bank of America; American Exchange Bank, N.Y. Mr. Span Sacramento City; Moses G. Noble, Gilroy; R. P. Rutledge Santa Clara; W. T. Rutledge; Albuquerque; Chihuahua; From Ukipi (?) to Los Angeles - 74 miles 74 Los Angeles to San Buenaventura 80 San Buenaventura to Santa Barbara 30 Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo 116 San Luis Obispo to Sam Juan (?) 131 San Juan to San Francisco 92 523 miles From Westport to Ukipi 1750 2273 Simon H. Seymour (In ink is written: “J. G. Hamilton's Memorandum Book. Nov. 1845” “James H. Bullard No. 140 J St. bt. 5 & 6 St., South side Sacramento City”

“Bray & Brother” “San Francisco 101 Front St. Samuel Scott Between San Joaquin & (?) Tulara County San Juan or Whan 40 miles south east of San Jose Valley up the San Jose; Gil Roy 10 miles from San Juan.; Maj. James Thompson, Barker Valley; W. H. Patton assessor Santa Clara County; J. G. Tucker, 125 Montgomery St. (?); Alamo Contra Costa County.”

(Two pages of this book are written in ink—the remainder consists mostly of a diary of the latter part of the 1857-58 trip across the plains. The first ink-inscribed page is -

## FORM OF A WILL

“In the name of God, Amen: I of the county of and state of hereby make this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills and testaments made by me. Item: I desire first that all just debts and demands that exist against me shall be paid in full. Item: I bequeathe to my beloved wife C (?) that portion of my (describe the property) I owe D one hundred dollars which I wish paid out of portion of this estate bequeathed.

17

“I nominate and appoint A as my executer to this my last will and testament of the County of and State of and request that they will as early as practicable have all the portions of this my will carried into effect.—In witness the date and place signed in presents of “

(The other ink-written page was probably gleaned during one of his business trips to Philadelphia. As I recall—he made buying trips to that city occasionally, and remember that Grandma told me that on one of the so trips he bought her a sewing machine—which was a very new article for the household, and was probably one of the first brought to Westport.)

## GIRARD COLLEGE FOR ORPHANS

“Founded A. D. 1833 34 pillars 55 feet high 18 & 27 foot in circumference. 12 rooms 50 feet square 3 storeys high. Solid marble roof. 10 pillars on each side 8 pillars on each end 20 feet. 11 steps up to first floor 10 or 12 inches thick. A large building on each side of the college for school children. Girard's statue on the first floor in full size, the buildings are all of solid marble.

“A stone fence 12 feet high enclosing several acres around the College to keep strangers from intruding and injuring the buildings.” Philad/July 12th 1847 J.G.H.”

(Two pages of a petty cash account are revealing!)—

1858 Cash 80\$ Jany 7 Bill at Franklin House \$12.75 “ Hack to boat 1.00 “ Passage on Surprise 45.00 “ 11 Hack to Am. Exchange 1.00 “ 12 Coat 14\$ Hat 5\$ 19.00 “ 13 Barber 1.00 Bar 25 1.25 \$ 80.00 1858 Jany 14 By cash of S. G. House (?) \$1477.50

Jany 14 To passage to Mouth Bay (?) 3.25 “ 15 Telegraph 1.75 Bar 25 2.00 “ 16 Papers 50 Porter 62 1.12 “ “ Bill at American Exc. 12.50 “ “ Passage on Surprise 35.00 “ 19 “ to Los Angeles 5.00 “ 20 Bill Bell Union (Los Angeles) 3.50 “ “ Passage to San Bernardino 8.00 Forward \$ 70.37 1858 Amt brot forward 70.37 Jany 21 To bill at Californian 1.50 “ 22 “ “ “ San Bernardino 4.50 “ “ “ postage for (?) .25 “ “ Paid sundry persons at camp 1400.88 \$1477.50

18

1958 Apl 22 To Farriage at Benicia .50 “ Passage to San Francisco 3.00 “ Porter .50 Hack .50 ? 25 1.25 “ 23 2# apples 1.00 soda .25 2.25 “ 24 Bar 25 Boots 50 Porter 50 1.25 “ Passage on New World 3\$ ferriage 50 3.50 “ 25 Paid keeping mules 6.00 “ Pistol flask 1.00

As the following diary begins in January, 1858 - in California - we wonder where he kept the record of the first part of the journey, which began in August, 1857 - according to the letters in “My dear Cornelia.”

Since compiling “My dear Cornelia” in 1951 the follow enlightening information has come to me from the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society in Tucson, Arizona, with whom a copy of the letters is filed. The Secretary, Eleanor B. Sloan, has written:

“I have just finished reading the letters and was very much interested as they describe one of the early successful cattle drives. He gave the hopes and fears of such a drive and the actual results in a way to make excellent historical data.”

“We have other accounts of the fight of the Pima and Maricopa with the Apache and Yuma Indians so it was interesting to have him go through just a month later. The Marakopa Village mentioned was on the Gila, and, as he says, was an extension of the Pima Villages. Phoenix is north east of the Maricopa villages and almost directly north of the Pima villages. That they went by the

Maricopa villages meant they followed a loup of the Gila to the north instead of the cut off used by the stages from the Pima villages to the southern end of the loup. You see all of the description is most interesting to us.”

“Thanks very much for sending us this manuscript. It is a very welcome addition to our letters of overland trips through Arizona.”

(This refers to Pages 8, 9, and 10 of “My dear Cornelia.” It had been my thought that the Marakopa village might have been the forerunner of Phoenix.) (For the most part the entries in the diary following are supplementary to the “My dear Cornelia” letters, by which locations have been checked.)

1858 56 50Jany 13. 42 degrees. (Probably San Francisco) Rain during the forenoon, cool all day. Walking around and reading the news Sent for my mail to Sacramento City. Saw Robt. Polk at wharf. Have every variety of vegetables; the largest & finest potatoes I ever saw.

Jany 14. 42 degrees. Sun is bright this morning. Cool all day. Got what funds I wanted of S. S. Hensley. Took a ride to the Fort at the mouth of the Bay. Passed fine gardens, vegetables 19 green and look beautiful. Passed several dairies. The roads muddy & bad and quite hilly. The mail steamer Golden Age arrived and such a rush to the Post office. Formed lines and each one march up in regular order. Tried to get to the letter box. Such a crowd. Concluded to wait untill morning. 42 degrees 60 48 Jany 15. 56 60 Again disapointed about my mail. Morning cloudy, afternoon clear. Reading the news & walking about town. Met with H. C. Boggs, lady & daughter at hotel.

Jany 16. Rec'd letters by express. Feel better. Answered letters. Prepared to leave on steamer Surprise at 4 p.m. The sea very rough and made the little boat plunge & crack & I wished to be on land. Do not feel as if I would be willing to take a sea voyage again. Boat frequently dipped.

Sunday



Jan'y 17. Waves not so high. Reading nearly all day. Boat did not stop during the day. Went to bed at an early hour. Felt melancholy and lonely, thinking of home.

Jan'y 18. Sea smooth & calm. Feel better this morning. Saw a whale spouting. Had a glimpse of him. The ? (porpin?) jumping out of the water. Arrived at Santa Barbara at 9 a.m. Left Santa Barbara at 11 and arrived at San Pedro at 9 p.m.

Jan'y 19. West ashore at 6 p.m. & took stage for Los Angeles at 8 & arrived at 10 - a distance of 25 miles. Los Angeles is situated at the foot of a mountain on a level plain on the San Gabriel creek to the south & SE to a beautiful level plain. To the north & NW is a range of mountains, along the creek grape & vegetables are cultivated. I walked through a beautiful garden & vineyard this afternoon. In the garden orange & lemon trees hung full of fruit. Fine cabbage, peas in bloom & many other vegetables. Pinks & flowers were to be seen on every side. The day warm and pleasant. Fig trees. This man can truly say that he can sit under his own vine & fig tree.

Jan'y 20. Started to San Bernardino in stage. Passed an old mission 6 miles from Los Angeles, the country being high & broken; from the mission to the mountn is a beautiful valley. A portion of the valley grow grain without irrigation. The day cloudy & pleasant. Staid all night at a Californian's by the name of Albrado.

Jan'y 21. Commenced raining in the night and rained all day. Passed over a beautiful valley today. Arrived at San Bernardino at 3 p.m. Stopd at Mitchell Hotel. Card playing & drinking was the business of the evening, with fiddling and dancing. Retired early to get out of the crowd. Sheet so dirty put it under the bed & pillow under the bed. A little straw in a tick and pair blankets composed the bed. Rested poorly. Rained hard all night. Save me from such a country and such people. Some fine improvements made by the Mormons. Nearly all left for Salt Lake and the upper country.

Jan'y 22. Rain falling fast - At 10 a.m. let up raining. Got horse & started to camp where I arrived at 2 p.m. after a disagreeable ride through rain & mud. Found all well. Heavy storm at night at Ukipi.

Jany 23. 30. 48. 40 Remained in camp all day. Rain all day with winds & disagreeable.

Jany 24. 30. 54. 40. Cleared off and pleasant all day. In camp most of the day.

20

Jany 25. 32. 60. 46. Clear & pleasant. writing home. Killed a beef. In camp all day.

Jany 26. 46. 66. 54. In camp all day. Wrote letter to Aggie Boone. Hatcher & Estes go to San Bernardino. Clear & pleasant. I am cook today.

Jany 27. 56. 76. 56. In camp all day. Mr. Copewood of San bernardino, Mr. Conn of San Francisco & Mr. Miller of San Jose called to see us and took dinner. Day clear & pleasant.

Jany 28. 50. 66. 50. In camp all day. Writing. Cloudy.

Jany 29. 50. 76. 56. Riding over the mountains & valley all day hunting cattle preparatory to a start. Clear and warm all day.

Jany 30. 44. 74. 54. Preparing to start. Clear & pleasant. James Matten (Watten'?) & Joseph Bridge dined with us.

Sunday (713)

Jany 31. Started at 10 & camped at 4 p.m. Clear & warm. Fine road. At old corral & doby house in 3 miles of San Bernardino. One cow died from eating clover. Water & clover 12 miles. Hatcher arrived at camp late at night. ?

Feby 1. 60. 78. 56. Started at 10 & camped at mountain springs at 2. 10 miles good road. Camp at foot of high mountain. Water to drink & cook, none for stock. Day clear & pleasant. No grass. Night high wind.

Feby 2. 56. 70. 56. Started at 8. Camped at 3 near Don Albrados Ranch. Wind blowing a perfect gale all day. Passed over a barren valley, had some grass & water. 20 miles.

Feby 3. 62. 84. 60. Started at 7 & camped at 9. A beautiful valley. Water & grass 4 miles. Clear & pleasant; in camp and walking over the hills all day.

Feby 4. 40. 86. 54. Started at 7 & camped on creek at 1 on a beautiful valley, plenty of grass & water for stock. Travelled over beautiful country today. Clear & pleasant. Estes left us in a flurry. 15 miles.

Feby 5. 32. 74. 50. Started at 8 & camped at Rosa Castiah at 1. Passed mountn at 9 & mission at 11. Fine valley. From last camp good grass & water. Clear & pleasant. 10 miles. Crossed San Gabriel river at 9.

Feby 6. 32. 76. 50. Started at 7 & camped on San Pedro creek 3 miles above Los Angeles. Clear & pleasant. 6 miles. Grass & water.

### Sunday

Feby 7. 50. 54. 50. Started at 7 & camped at Kowangoh (he must mean Cahuenga) at 12. Grass & water. Foggy & misting all forenoon. 12 miles. Traveled up San Pedro Creek. Sandy roads. One cow died from eating cloves. Mormon emigrants camped just below us. (708)

Feby 8. 50. 64. Started at 7 & camped at Insino (Encino?) live oak grove at 11. 8 miles. Traveled over a barren plain. No water except a warm spring. Weeds & clover, no grass. Cloudy & cool. Saw a vulture. Beautiful oak grove here. Bad water for cattle to ?.

Feby 9. 36. 70. Started at 7 & camped at 1 at Ranch Domingus. Weeds & clover. A small spring of sulphur water. 15 miles. Passed Callabassa at 10. Grass, no water (which is very dangerous for stock to drink). At 12 passed Sulphur Springs. Parenthesis meant to follow this no doubt.) Road hilly & rough. Cloudy & cool. 4 cows died from eating clover. Moss on trees.

Feby 10. 42. 72. 50. Started at 8 & camped at 1 in a beautiful valley (Trumpo (tramput) tho no water. At 10 rested one hour at a spring to the left, at foot of mountain. Cloudy & pleasant, 9 miles. Weeds & clover.

Feby 11. 44. 60. 50. Started at 7 & camped at 1 Kiyorwah. 12 miles. Passed Oak Spring at 8. Crossed mountain at 10. Passed over beautiful valley, tho no water. Plenty stock water here. Cloudy. Ordered off but did not go untill ready.

Feby 12. 34. 66. 52 Started at 7 and drove one mile down the valley & camped for the day. Clear & pleasant. Ordered to leave our camp. Started at 3 & camped at 5 near wood & water. 5 miles. Can hear the roar of the mighty ocean.

Feby 13. 42. 80. 54. Started at 6 1/2 & camped at Santa Clara Creek at 9 1/2 - 8 miles. Morning cloudy & cool. Afternoon clear & pleasant. Killed beef. Clover & weeds. In sight the Pacific Ocean. Feasted on ducks.

### Sunday

Feby 14. 46. 68. 54. Started at 7. Reached the coast at 9. Passed San Buen a ven tura (this is the way it was written. This is now known as Ventura.) At 10 & camped at 12 on the coast. Grass. No fresh water. Bad road along the coast. Water running up to road. 12 miles. Spent the afternoon in walking on the beach & watching the moving & dashing of the troubled ocean & admiring the great & perfect work of the Creator. Saw a whale at a distance spouting water & occasionally would show himself. Slept in a few yards of the dashing waves. One cow left. Clear & pleasant.

Feby 15. 44. 66. 54. Started at 7 & camped at creek of fresh water at 9. 5 miles. Saw 2 whales spouting in the water & one sea dog. Started at 2. Passed (he had written Rin Cone, crossed it out, then wrote Dojje?) at 4, where a creek empties into the ocean. Camped at Carpinteriah on a high bank on the coast at 5 1/2. 8 miles. 13 miles today. ?

(700)

Feby 16. 44. 62. 50. Started at 12 & camped at a creek at 3. 6 miles. Rough & hilly wash. Saw whale. Cloudy & pleasant. Rain at night. Feby 17. 52. 70. 60. Started at 7 1/2 and camped at Ranchero at 2. 10 miles. Stopped 1 hour at Santa Barbara. Good roads water & grass. Cloudy & pleasant. Best grass since starting. Santa Barbara is as all towns in Lower California - no regularity about streets or houses. Houses built of adoba.

Feby 18. 66. 62. 50 Started at 7 & encamped at 1 on a creek near the ocean. Fine grass & beautiful live oak grove. 12 miles. Stopped one hour at Hulls Ranch. Walked to the top of a high hill & took a view of the ocean & country around. The mountains come very near the coast, making the road hilly & rough. ? Tar springs in abundance.

Feby 19. 42. 70. 64. Started at 7 & encamped at 1 at a creek on the coast. The road is very hilly & rough. At many places almost impassable. Saw three whales near shore. In a row rods of camp saw a Sycamore tree covered with butterflies. They would cling together and form bunches as large as a hat just as bees do in swarms. Very high wind all night. 10 miles. Mormon friends gave us a bucket butter-milk.

Feby 20. 20. 60. 74. Started at 7 1/2 & encamped at mouth of Gavayotah Canon at 2 1/2. 10 miles. Passed over a miserable bad road. Hills & deep ravines every half mile & almost impassable 22 for wagon. Whales & porpus near shore. 10 miles. Surrounded by mountains. Woods waist high. Clear and very windy.

### Sunday

Feby 21. 60. 80. 64. Started through Canon at 6 1/2 & encamped at 10 1/2 in a beautiful valley surrounded by mountains with beautiful live oak grove. 2 miles through canon. Miserable road, rocky & hilly. At mouth canon took right hand road up creek. 6 miles. Clear & warm. Barley room

for wagon to pass between rocks. Bad water. Fine grass. Took canteen & walked about one mile & found good cool rivulett. Clear & warm. Mormon emigrants seem to be afraid to leave us. 6 miles.

Feby 22. 44. 74. 50. Started at 7 & camped in a canon at 5. No water & but little grass. 13 miles. Passed over a high mountain. Crossed Santines Creek at 9. Took left hand road down the creek 2 miles & encamped 4 hours from here right hand road. Clear & pleasant. Camp decorated with yellow flowers in canon.

Feby 23. 54. 76. 66. Started at 7 & encamped at 12 in a valley at the foot of a mountain 1 mile above Alama Ranch. Water in a branch to the right of the road. Passed over a mountain. Bad road over it. Saw 5 deer. Hatcher killed one deer. 13 miles. Clear & pleasant. Good camp below house.

Feby 24. 40. 84. 60. Started at 7 & encamped at 3 at Lagoonah. Bad water & but little grass. Have had no water for 12 miles. Passed over a poor sandy country today, took right hand road through hill 1/2 mile above a ranch. Santeesmo was written in above then crossed out.) Clear & pleasant. H killed crane. 16 miles. Cooked with ? chips. This is Walupa Valley - about 15 miles wide and a sand plain. Feby 25. 38. 86. 66. Started at 6 1/2 & encamped at an American ranch just below house, this being the first water. Grass poor. Traveled north across the valley to the hills where we came into the upper road that left Alamo Ranch to the right, road sandy, & perfect desert across the valley. 12 miles. Clear & pleasant. Our camp is in a few yards of the grave of Capt. Dancy, the man who owned the Nipoma ranch. He died the first of this month leaving a wife & ten children. A miserable country to leave a family. Rather suffer the inconvenients of a hot climate & die among ? friends?

Feby 26. 42. 70. 60. Started at 7 & camped at 1 at Royo Honda where the road comes to the coast. The ranch is called Rio Grande. We crossed the Rio Grande Creek at a ranch near the coast and drove 1/2 mile into the hills & camped near a spring. Poor grass. Good road untill we came to Rio Grande. Crossed below the old road. Clear & pleasant. The gentleman living here gave us a coffee pot of milk and I took a hearty dinner of venison, corn bread & butter, honey, coffee & milk. Thick fog. 12 miles.

Feb 27. 50. 66. 54. Started at 7 & encamped at 1 at rock correll in a beautiful valley. Grass & water. Road rough & hilly. Passed over a beautiful camping place 2 miles back. Morning very foggy. Afternoon clear & pleasant. One cow died. 6 miles. Have considerable trouble getting cows & calves together when we camp, have to tie some of the cows before they will own the calves & such a balling.

Sunday (this day is not observed in Cala.)

Feb 29. 52. 62. 52. Started at 7 & encamped at 1. 1 mile above San Luis Obispo in a canon. Water & grass scant. Passed San Luis Obispo at 10. This is an old Jesuit Mission. Has several 23 stores & dojjaries (?) and 9 miles from the coast. 7 miles today. Lower California is a miserable poor country at least 3/4 mountains and many of the valleys poor destitute of water, therefore cannot be cultivated. The country is also very much over rated as a stock country owing to the scarcity of water & grass. The grass dries up and blows away in September, and for the last three years stock have starved by the thousand. It is estimated that 60,000 died in 2 years, there not being rain sufficient to bring the grass up. The timber is very low & scrubby & is not fit for plank, rail, or fire wood, being so crooked & knotty. The inhabitants are equally as scrubby as the timber, being as a general thing lazy & indolent & only living for the present, not having an eye to the future ?

(697)

March 1. 50. 70. 54. Started at 7 & encamped at 1 at St. Marguerita, an old Mission & a very pretty valley, well timbered & good water & grass 9 miles. Very bad road. Passed through a canon 6 miles & over a high mountain. Foggy in the morning. Clear & pleasant in afternoon. Saw a few pine trees today. San Marguerita is a large ranch and suits my views as a ranch better than any I have seen. A cow ran back last night. 4 cattle dealers camped with us. Burris, Majory (?) & 2 others.

March 2. 38. 74. 54. Started at 7 & encamped at 1 at Pas Roble, a ranch on the Rio Salinas. Short grass. Magill went back to hunt cow. Passed Los ca da rah Ranch owned by Mr. Don Blackburn. (?)

miles this side San Marguerita. Morning cool with thick fog. Afternoon clear & pleasant. 10 miles. Crossed the Rio Salinas at camp. Considerable white pine.

Mar. 3. 42. 66. 46. Started at 7 & encamped at 11 on the bank of the Rio Salinas in a open wood valley. This creek is the largest we have crossed since coming into California, the water being some 6 or 10 yards wide and some 3 to 6 inches deep. Sandy bottom with the hills running up near the creek in many places. In one mile of hot spring. Morning cool & foggy. Afternoon clear & pleasant. 7 miles. Some beautiful valleys on this creek, covered with oak of a better quality than is found below San Louis Obispo. Bathed in creek. 2 very large calves 2 1/2 ft high. High wind during the night.

Mar. 4. 46. 66 50. Remained in camp all day. The wind blew very hard all day. 4 p.m. I am now seated on a high bluff oposit camp on the Salinas at the foot of a white oak tree & have a fine view of the country around which is quite picturesque. Pretty valley on the west with high hill on each side. Nice clear creek, below me & the men busily engaged driving the cattle to water & such a balling of cows & calves.

Mar. 5. 32. 70. 54. Started at 7 & encamped at 11 in 1 1/2 miles of San Migel in a small valley. Water & grass. 5 miles. Clear & pleasant, deer & bear in abundance.

Mar. 6. 20. 80. 62. Started at 7 & encamped at on Masser mento creek at 11. This is the most beautiful creek that I have seen in California, is some 40 foot wide and 2 foot deep, tho dries up after the rains. The water clear & good. Sandy bottom with banks lined with willow & cotton-wood. Nice valley on each side at tho crossings tho too sandy for cultivation. The grass excellent. A house below the crossing belonging to Americans. Passed the San Migel Mission; is the largest mission I have seen. Situated in a valley on the Rio Salinas. We took the left hand road 24 at mission across the hills. Heavy frost last night. Clear & pleasant. 8 miles. Murders frequently committed in this country by the greasers. 2 were killed in 1/4 mile camp about a year ago, 2 in 9 miles about a month ago. Deer & bear in abundance, & antelope.



## Sunday

Mar. 7. 30. 80. 70. Moved up the river one mile & encamped for they day. Clear & pleasant. The two young men who live here spent the forenoon with us. Slight headache. Deer & bear plenty. Clear & warm.

Mar. 8. 30. 86. 70. Remained in camp all day. Took a stroll over the hills. After walking until I became weary climbed up an oak tree & stretched me on a limb, thought of home & thanked Him who has preserved our lives & brought us safely all along our journey through life. Clear & warm.

Mar. 9. 42. 80. 66. Drove 3 miles & came to Rio San Buenaventura. Traveled up creek 5 miles & encamped on the bank: Very good grass & water. Morning foggy. Afternoon clear & warm. 8 miles. Road rough & hilly with thick brush up creek. Bear & deer in mountains. Can kill them.

March 10. 34. 82. 60. Drove 2 miles to an old adoba house & grazed one hour, then drove 4 miles & encamped on the creek in a valley. Good grass and water. Morning foggy, afternoon hazy & warm.

March 11. 50. 68. 56 A drive of 6 miles up the creek brought us to Lospases Ranch. Here we leave the creek and drove 3 miles & camped for the night just below a house. Had to send 6 miles off the road for flour, nothing to be had in this country. Cloudy all day.

March 12. 46. 56. 50. A drive of 2 miles brought us to a nice valley, tho no water. 6 miles over a mountain brought us to Coxes Ranch. Camped at the foot of the mountain, good grass, no water. One cow died. Cloudy & cool. Flies blow meat in a few moments after it is killed. Cloudy all day. Rain all night. 8 miles today. White sulphur spring here, very strong. Mush & milk every night. My drawers do not meet by 4 inches, the drawers that C made me at leaving home.

March 13. 54. 56. 50. Remained encamped all day. Walked around over the hills & valleys. Saw one deer & found a rope. Read & thought of home. Cleared off this morning & cool & pleasant. Hatcher killed a buck.

## Sunday

Mar. 14. 36. 56. 46. A drive of 5 miles to Cocks old ranch. 5 miles to Salinas where, we encamped under a hill to protect us from the high wind. Very high winds & cold. Rain last night. Very unpleasant traveling today.

(693)

Mar. 15. 36. 60. 54. A drive of 15 miles brought us in 2 miles of Soledad Mission on Rio Salinas. High wind & very unpleasant. Wide valley, tho not cultivated owing to scarcity of water. The Rio Salinas stops running during the summer & fall. Had to send to mission for water.

Mar. 16. 30. 66. 50. A drive of 2 miles brought us to Soledad Mission. 2 miles farther we crossed the Rio Salinas & encamped on the bank. From this place to San Louis Obispo the country is kept in commotion by a band of robbers. High wind & very unpleasant day.

March 17. 30. 60. 40. Drove 4 miles & encamped on the bank of 25 Rio Salinas. Lost one cow. 5 went back to hunt, tho did not find her. Found 2 calves that was lost. High winds and very disagreeable. Hail storm at night & very windy. Last night a severe storm, wind & rain. This is a very disagreeable section country. The inhabitants are thieves & live like dogs & country too dry to raise grain.

Mar. 18. 28. 62. 48. Remained encamped all day. Hatcher & 7 men went back and looked for the cow. Did not find her. She is no doubt hid by the natives. I walked around & found 2 lost calves. High wind, tho more pleasant than for several days. (690) Mar. 19. 28. 70. 50. Drove 12 miles over the Salinas valley & encamped in a grove of oak & sycamore trees. No water. Good range. Met persons going down the country to look for a better country, none satisfied. Pleasant in forenoon, afternoon windy. Sick headache.

Mar. 20. 34. 70. 52. A drive of 6 miles brought us to Allisal Mission. 5 miles to a creek where the Monterey road comes in. A store is kept here. Drove California cattle passed us, also one drove yesterday.

Mar. 21. 46. 64. 50. A drive of 10 miles brought us to San Juan situated in a pretty little valley. This place looks more like we are getting into a civilised country. The houses are generally of frame. 2 miles farther crossed the Rio Pajaro or San Bonita and encamped on the bank.

Mar. 22. 50. 66. 52. Went to San Juan & ntd (?) to camp and drove 3 miles up the creek & encamped. Short time after we were encamped Mr. Wilson ordered us to leave the ranch as he did not want his grass eaten up. We however remained all day.

Mar. 23. 48. 66. 54. Drove up the Pahro creek 3 miles & encamped for the day. Mr. Wilson road up a few moments after we started & said we could not camp on his ranch tonight. I told him that I know not the bounds of his ranch & would camp after our usual drive certainly be it on his ranch or not. He then left.

Mar. 24. 40. 70. 60. Remained encamped on the bank of the Rio Pahro all day. Rented Mr. Nobles pasture of 800 acres for 3 months for which we paid \$1000. The people of California will not permit stock to graze on their lands, & unless they are paid give the drovers considerable trouble. Rained all night. One cow drowned. Discharged 4 men. Charges 50 to 100 a head for month.

Mar. 25. 54. 56. 50. Drove 2 miles to Mr. Noble's Ranch and encamped on rich valley in sight of the main road to the upper country, & in 3 miles of Gilroy. This is the finest grazing I have seen. Shower of rain. Quite a time getting the cows & calves mated out.

Mar. 26. 30. 60. 50. Wrote to Cornelia. Trying to sell cows & walking about. 2 buyers tho did not make sale. Rained all night. Sold 2 cows at 100\$ ea., 1 at 80\$, 2 3-year old heifers 75\$ ea., & 1 yearling calf 30\$.

Mar. 27. Continuous raining. Concluded to remain in bed in the dug-out untill the rain ceased. Moses Noble came about 7 & insisted on us going to his house untill the rain was over. Hatcher made many excuses. Finally I drew on my duds and went with Mr. Noble, took breakfast & sat by a good fire untill the rain quit. I found Mrs. Noble & Miss Noble clever Virginia ladies. Have been living in California about 4 months. One cow died. Sold 3 cows at 95\$ ea. & 1 at 75.

26

Sunday

Mar. 28 - 32. 56 Rain last night, high wind all day, blew tent down. In camp all forenoon. Afternoon walking around cattle & spent an hour very pleasantly at Mr. Noble's. Hatcher returned from San Juan with six letters from my wife, three from Will, one from Mantie & one from Mat. Quite a treat reading. Hatcher held the candle for me to read. Wrote to Cornelia.

March 29. Rained all night & all forenoon. Wrote to Cornelia. Falis left us today to return to New Mexico. He shed tears when he started. Falis has been a good & faithful boy. We have 3 men left. Afternoon very high wind & disagreeable ? for the last three days & slight head ache.

Mar. 30. W' H. Patten assessor of Santa Clara Co. called on us for a list of our stock. Gave in 670 cattle at 35\$ ea & 12 mules @ 45\$ ea. Afternoon clear & warm. Headache all day. Liver sore.

Mar. 31. 50. 80. 56. Morning cloudy, afternoon clear & warm. Preparing to go up the country, sewing, washing & fixing in general. Hatcher went to San Juan & got 100\$ of Lorenzo Patolongo. Liver sore. Our camp is on a very low & damp place, feet wet all day.

(Here he digresses with random notes)-

“Lower California” “The country is poor & with few exceptions but little grass is grown. The valleys of San Bernardino, Montic (?) & Los Angeles are rich & productive valleys & grain & fruit is grown to a considerable extent; from Los Angeles to San Juan the valleys are dry & destitute of

water so much so that a field of grain is but seldom seen. The valleys on the Rio Salinas are large but too dry to cultivate.

“This portion of California is owned & settled principally by the native Californians. Their ranches consist of an adoba house, & a correll. The men seem to spend their time on horseback, charging around as if they were on business of the greatest importance. They are lazy & indolent, do not so much as raise vegetables or fruit but lounge around half starved, living on poor beef.

“No school or churches are to be seen except at Santa Barbara & a Catholic church at San Louis Obispo. (Marauding bands) Stealing & robbing & murder is an every day occurrence. It is said that a band of robbers range from San Louis Obispo to San Juan, but from my experience on the road, the settlers are more to be dreaded than the roving banditti. Many years ago a large portion of the valleys have been cultivated which are now not cultivated owing to the scarcity of water for irrigation. It seems that the heavens have been shut up against this people & country & the rain withheld, the earth parched & the streams dried up—caused no doubt from the wickedness of the people. 60,000 head of cattle have starved in 2 years.

“The changes are as great & frequent as Missouri; the high winds being very disagreeable. Rain, hail & snow in the same hour & in a few hours the hot sun is oppressive. This is Lower 27 California.” (He then continues with his diary. Since coming into possession of the letters of Grandfather Hamilton, and since reading his notes, other events of the west during the years 1857-58 have become alive to me. Sometimes in reading of exciting tales of those days I can almost vision the pioneers crossing each other's paths, like ships in the night. Who knows—the camels which roamed the desert as the result, of the dream of Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War, Lieutenant Edward Fitzgerald Beale, Major George H. Crosman and Major Henry C. Wayne may have startled the natives along the very paths which Grandfather Hamilton travelled in 1857-58! Many times, in passing old Fort Tejon on the Ridge Route between Los Angeles and Bakersfield, I have pictured Lieutenant Beale calling directions in Syrian to his famous sulky-team of camels which transported him between his ranch at Tejon and Los Angeles! How very untamed, inaccessible and unpromising the southwestern lands seemed in those years is indicated by the report of a young U. S. lieutenant,

Joseph Ives, who explored the Grand Canyon country in 1857: "Ours has been the first and will doubtless be the last party of whites to visit this profitless locality." How insane would have seemed, to them, a prophecy that in 1951 688,673 persons viewed nature's masterpiece in color—The Grand Canyon—and that they came by plane, train, bus, and private automobiles, from 48 states, seven territories, and thirty-one foreign countries! But to return to James G. Hamilton's diary - )

April 1. 54. Rain all forenoon. At 12 I left camp on mule-back, rode to the stage road & then walked to Gilroy, a distance of 3 miles. I crossed a creek which was deeper than I anticipated, the water running over my boots & completely wetting my feet, which kept them cold during the afternoon. Passed over a valley 2 to 3 miles wide, tho but few farms of note. Very sandy soil will not grow grain unless the season is wet. Arrived at San Jose at 6 1/2. Stopped at Hillman House. Rained at night. Drew off boots & dried feet & retired to bed.

Apl 2. San Jose is a very nice town situated in a beautiful valley, tho at this time the streets are quite muddy. Started at 6, passed over a beautiful valley which is fenced & the greater portion in cultivation. Fine gardens & nice young orchards. Passed San Jose Mission, Oakland & took boat across the bay & arrived in San Francisco at 4.

Apl 3. Started across the bay at 10, arrived at Mare Island the Government Navy Station & Vallejo oposit at 1 1/2; passed Suscol & arrived at Napa City at 4. Napa is situated at the head of navigation in a beautiful & rich valley 60 miles in length & about 2 miles wide. I met H. C. Boggs & went to his house and spent the night. Rained at night.

Apl 4. Rained all morning. Afternoon clear. Rode to Gov. Boggs & staid all night. The Gov. looks quite old. Has a fine house & excellent farm. Roads muddy.

Apl 5. Rode to Henry's & then to Napa City where I took stage, arriving at Benicia at 4. Came aboard S. S. Eclipse at 6 & arrived at Sacramento at 3. Perfect crowd aboard, all the state rooms

occupied & could not get a chair. Got so sleepy that I lay down on my coat & carpet sack & took a snooze on the floor.

(140 lbs)

Apl 6. Called to see J. H. Bullard and advertised our cattle in Sacramento Union. Read a letter from Cornelia. After walking 28 about, started for San Francisco on S. S. Eclipse & arrived at 10 1/2 almost chilled through. The wind blew very hard all afternoon making the bay rough & was cold & unpleasant on the boat, not having fire. The valley on each side of the river is low & marshy.

Apl 7. Called to see Bray & Bros; are very clever men, advertised in the Bulletin, had a long talk with a cattle buyer. Rained all day. Hubbell sold his sheep today at 3-75 (?)

Apl 8. Went to Alviso on steamer Sophia. Bay very rough. Wind blowing very hard. Went to San Jose by stage, had to walk over mudhole; roads muddy & bad, quite an unpleasant day.

Apl 9. Cold & frosty. Started at 5 a.m. & reached camp at 10. Hatcher had just sold 30 hieifers at 65\$ each. Remained in camp. Apr. 10. Warm & pleasant today. Hatcher & Ed Perry went to San Juan. This has been the most pleasant day since we arrived here.

Sunday

Apl 11. Warm & pleasant. Writing letters & reading all day. Suffering with a severe cold in my head.

Apl 12. Warm & pleasant. Sold 23 heifers at 60\$ ea. Headache in the afternoon and sick all night.

Apl 13. Forenoon warm. Afternoon cloudy & windy. Writing letters.

Apl 14. Cloudy & windy. Van & Wade Hays visited me; sold 15 cows at 60\$. They live in Contra Costa County in 6 miles of Alamo.

Apl 15. Cloudy & windy. Sold all the stock to Mr. Richards at 42.50 per head. Headache & bad cold. Van & Wade Hays went home.

Apl 16. Cloudy & cold, with high wind making it very unpleasant. Preparing to start. Head continues to ache.

Apl 17. Started at 8 and encamped at 21 mile house at 2. Rec'd four letters from home, 2 written in Oct, one Dec, and one March. Clear & windy. Cattle counted 604. Sold 82. 12 miles.

### Sunday

Apl 18. Drove 15 miles & encamped at the foot of a hill. No water for stock today; high wind & very dusty road making it very unpleasant traveling. Stood guard at night.

Apl 19. A drive of 3 1/2 miles brought us to San Jose. The roads in many places muddy & bad. High winds & dusty. Apl 20. Passed San Jose mission & encamped for breakfast. The assessor came up and wanted to assess the cattle but told him they were assessed in Santa Clara County, so he took my word for it & left.

Apl 21. Traveled over rough mountainous country in San Ramon County, passed down the valley, which is rich & produces wheat & barley well. Great many cattle in this country & fine grazing. Mr. Richards met us.

Apl 22. Drove 11 miles & encamped at Walnut Creek House & Mr. Richards & myself went to Martinis, crossed the bay, took passage on steamer Eclipsi. On the way down Richards was knocked down by D. C. Hitchcock, cause, H sued by R to recover a debt. Arrived at San Francisco 10 p.m.

Apl 23. Closed trade with Mr. Richards & rec'd \$10,000 on trade, the bal. to be paid by the 19th May. Met with Hubbell, deposited \$10,000 with Bray & Bro. and \$2300 with Eugene Kelley & Co. Remained in city all day.



Apl 24. Walked about town in forenoon. At 4 p.m. took passage on New World and arrived at Benicia at 7. Crossed the Bay to Martinis & stopped for the night.

29

Sunday

Apl 25. Drove to camp; found Hatcher in trouble, had been ordered off by the owner of the place. Travelers have no place in this country.

Apl 26. Sent wagon & carriage off. Moved cattle to new grazing place. In camp all day.

Apl 27. Cooked breakfast & eat alone, as the others all eat at Walnut Creek House. Packed three mules & went to new camp. I walked & led a mule with gun on my shoulder. High winds all day. Unpleasant camp. Slept in a barley field to shelter from the high & cold wind.

Apl 28. Forenoon clear & high winds, afternoon thundered and rain & hail fell quite fast for several minutes; quite cold & unpleasant. Mount Diablo is white with snow, which is a little east of camp.

Apl 29. Remained in camp untill the afternoon, when we drove to the Walnut Creek house & corralled our cattle for the night.

Apl 30. Sold 43 cows at 59\$ & 60\$. Mr. Richards stopped the sale as he said the cows were selling too low. This Walnut Creek House is a perfect nuisance, the land lord & lady both drunk the most of the time. Name is Hough.

May 1st. Started on our journey. I road in a wagon with the little calves, had some trouble tying them & keeping the little fellows quiet. The day very warm. Encamped in 1 1/2 miles of Martinis. Stood guard untill 12 at night. Cows very quiet except those that wanted to run back. 2 succeeded in running back.

(Sunday)

May 2. Remained in camp until 4 p.m. & then drove to Martinis. I walked & led the pack mule which had the remainder of three wagon loads packed on her, rather a hard looking picture for a Westport Gent.

May 3. Crossed the bay by 12 o'clk. Lost no cattle in crossing, paid 40 cents per head on cows & calves. 656 head \$262.50 & 10 (?) for hands. Walked through the city of Benicia with axe & canteen on my shoulder & driving the pack mule. One of the men took pity on me and gave me his mule to ride. Some man made a great fuss because we drove along the road by their place, which was not fenced, & the cows eat a little grass by the road side. Mean people in California. Drove 9 miles & encamped for the night. Now in Solano County, which is hilly, the grain looks well.

May 4. At sunrise started passing over some beautiful country, grain looking well. Reached Napa City & encamped for the night. Angus & Albert Boggs called to see us. Day hot & dusty & I tired & hungry after riding a lazy mule all day without spurs, driving cows & calves.

May 5. Started at sunrise and drove 2 miles west of Sonoma, passing over Sonoma Valley which is sparsley covered with timber, which gives this valley a more pleasant & cheerful appearance than any valley I have seen, the grain looks badly, wheather from neglect of the farmer or soil, I am unable to say, tho my opinion is the former. The improvements look old & dilapidated & many farms seem to be going to rack. Sonoma is situated at the foot of a mountain & the valley lays to the south towards the bay. The day hot & roads dusty & I very much fatigued.

May 6. Started at 6 1/2. Passed over a broken and hilly country untill we reached Petaluma Valley, which is level; at this time an abundance of water, tho no timber. The valley is fenced up, 30 Passed Petaluma City, a very nice looking town at the head of stream, boat navigation. The day hot & dusty and I awful tired.

May 7. Passed over a very mountainous & rough country. Good grazing. Crossed the bay as the tide was rushing up half an hour later and it would have swam our cattle. Awful tired.

May 8. Passed over a miserable hilly, & rough country, in many places could scarcely get our cattle along. This is Marine County. Arrived at Mr. Richard's ranch at 4 oclck and delivered the stock. We have lost 30 head of cattle since leaving Gilroy. This is certainly the tail end of California.

May 9. (Sunday) Started for Petaluma at sunrise and arrive at 3 oclck after a ride on a lazy mule, of 30 miles over the roughest & highest hills in the country. I suffered during the afternoon & night with sick headache. Stopped at the Washington Hotel. Retired to rest at 5.

May 10. Went to landing in stage, distance 2 miles, & took passage on steamer Petaluma for San Francisco, where we arrived at 12 oclck, passing the penitentiary stuck on a small island, and is quite a desolate looking place.

May 11. Walking about & reading the news. Met with Hicks, McCauly, Dwight, & ? Spencer.

May 12. Walking around looking at the city & reading the news. Fire companies No. 1 & 5 disbanded by the Chief Engineer & Police. Quite a crowd gathered around the engine room, tho no resistance, the door was broke open. Hatcher went to Benicia to look for lost cows. The mornings are quite cool. The afternoon cool & windy & very unpleasant, the crust filling the eyes.

May 13. Remained in the city all day. At night went to the dedication of the First Presbyterian Church on Stockton street. Dr. W. C. Anderson, the pastor, preached the dedicatory sermon. An organ with the choir performed the musical part. This is the first Protestant church formed in San Francisco. It was formed in 1849 with six members, only two of the original number being present, 2 being dead, one returned to the states, the other having joined some other church. At the close of the service a collection was taken up and about \$1000 was collected. The cost of the house is \$50,000 and \$35,000 has been paid, leaving a balance of \$15,000 to be raised. The house was full in every part—even the entrance was jammed full.

May 14. The day cool & cloudy with light shower. Mr. Bray & I walked through some very large ware houses which were well filled with flour, grain & goods, then on Telegraph Hill which overlooks the city & surrounding country & the ocean. Bought a present for Cornelia & little girls.

May 15. The steamer I. L. Stephens arrived at 9 o'clock and such a rush I never seen. The wharf was covered with people. I stood and looked on for near two hours. I then went on board and found the boat perfectly crowded with people. It done me good to see friends meet, which reminded me of the period I hope to see of meeting my friends on the Atlantic side. I met with Geo. L. Tucker who I had not seen for near 20 years.

May 16. (Sunday 16th) Forenoon went to 1st Presbyterian Church & heard Dr. Anderson preach from Luke 2:14, after which the Lord's supper was administered. Several persons joined by letter & some by examination. The meeting was solemn & interesting. The house was full & I never saw people more attentive in any country. I could but wish & pray that I was with my dear family & that we could be permitted to enjoy such a blessing together.

In the evening I went to Calvary church (Dr. Scott's church) and heard Rev. Corwin preach, subject outward forms & catholic schools, exhorting parents not to have their children educated under Catholic influence. This is a fine church, large & commodious with galleries & organ, large and attentive audience. May 17. Preparing to start home. Delivered 19 cows to Richards at Benicia.

May 18. Walking around, reading the news & wishing to be off for home.

May 19. Arrange our business for our early start in the morning. Bullard came to the city, but forgot to bring my letters, had to telegraph for them. Hatcher & Boggs concluded their copartnership arrangements to drive sheep to this country. A large business is done in this city & county in loaning money, the current rates being 2 1-2 to 3 per month on good paper. The commission business is the safest business in this city, com. for selling 5 percent advancing on produce in store 2 1/2 pct pr month. We have \$26,000 in gold which we have put in two sacks and then in our carpet bags, which we expect to carry home.

May 20. At 8 this morning started for the steamer J. L. Stephens. The crowd had already assembled. A. L. Boggs & J. H. Bullard came to see us off at 10 1/4, the Stephens moved off from her dock and in an hour we were riding the waves of the mighty Pacific. The sea was quite rough which caused many of the passengers to cast up their food. I was also sick & went to bed where I remained during the afternoon & night, feeling very bad.

May 21. Up early walking the docks. Went to breakfast, took a few sups of coffee, left the table & lost my coffee overboard. In about an hour tried it again with better success, which caused me to feel much better. At 12 ock in Latitude 34 longitude 121. Distance 233 miles from San Francisco. Afternoon feel quite well rested well during the night.

May 22. Forenoon pleasant tho rough sea. I feel quite well this morning & passed the time pleasantly. Afternoon pleasant, sea rough, feel quite well. Rested well all night. Fine moonlight.

May 23. (Sunday) Morning cool & pleasant, rough sea, boat rocks constantly. Feel well. Afternoon sea quite rough with heavy breeze from N. W. Sermon at night by a blind man. Night cool & pleasant. In sight of land.

May 24. Morning cool & pleasant. Feel well. Sea continues rough,—afternoon cool & pleasant. Met the Golden Gate from Panama. Pleasant walking on dock after sun down.

May 25. Morning warm & sultry, changed clothing. Passed Cape San Lucas & Gulf of California, saw flying fish. Clear & warm, already 84 degrees.

May 26. Warm with fine breeze which makes it quite pleasant. Landed at Mansenilla, a Mexican town. 86 degrees.

May 27. Warm & sultry in forenoon. Afternoon fine breeze with lightning & light shower. 86 degrees.

May 28. Landed at Acapulca at 4 ocl<sup>k</sup> in the morning. Acapulca is a small Mexican town on the bay, the bay is small tho deep & safe for vessels. High & rugged hills almost surround the bay & town. The natives swim around the ship & dive for dimes which are thrown into the bay. A half hour after starting a lady missed her son 12 years old & supposed he had been lost, which 32 caused her to cry & lament her son, tho after searching the boy was found and brought to his mother. The boy is a nice chap. Warm all day. 90 degrees.

May 29. Warm & sultry all day. Cloudy in evening. 92 degrees in latitude 14 degrees. Fine shower in the afternoon which caused the night to be cool & pleasant.

#### Sunday May 30th

Morning warm, fine shower during the forenoon. A notice was posted near the pursers office saying that Dr. Hubbard would preach in the Ladies Cabin - subject - I'll see your five & go ten better. This Dr. Hubbard is an Englishman, was an Episcopalian minister, tho from causes has ceased to officiate. Afternoon was warm & sultry. At night the blind man preached from the last chapter of Revelations. After preaching a collection. 90 degrees.

May 31. Morning warm & sultry - afternoon warm with light breeze, night pleasant. 90 degrees.

#### June 1st

Pleasant breeze all day. Rain at night. 90 degrees. Rather dangerous for ladies to travel this route alone, as all have to look to their own interests, and frequently ladies are subject to insult.

June 2. Pleasant all day with rain in the forenoon.

June 3. Passed numerous islands, some of which were covered with trees & shrubery, and said to be an abundance of good fresh water & thickly inhabited with monkeys, baboons, & snakes. Arrived at the mooring of the steamer at 10 a.m. when we were transferred to a small ferry boat so thick that we suffered very much from the intense heat. The boat moved slowly across the bay to the rail

road depo, tho before reaching the wharf the tide was running out so rapidly that the passengers had to get into small boats & go ashore, some getting quite wet as the tide ebbs & flows. Had to wait 2 hours at panama for the cars. At 1 oclck we moved off for Aspinwall, where we arrived at 4 p.m. Panama is an old town and was in former times quite a place of business — tho of late years the place is not improving. Since the difficulty with the natives the travel does not pass through the city & the natives are also out off from the proffitable business of boating the passengers from the ship to the shore. The inhabitants are negroes with a few Americans & ships of war lay in the bay, which keeps the natives quiet. The country from Panama is rough & broken & covered with a thick growth, of trees & bushes, tho but few large trees. The natives live in villages along the rail road track in small shanties made of brush & leaves, and are a lazy indolent people. They live on fruit, have a few cattle & ponies.

Aspinwall on the Atlantic side is settled principally by Americans and is quite a place for hotels, as nearly every house is a hotel at this place. We had to wait from 4 oclck until 8 before we could get on board the Star of the West, and it being quite warm made it quite uncomfortable, & the negros with their ice water, lemonade, liquor, cakes & fruit begging the passengers to buy. At 9 oclck at night the boat put to sea, crowded with passengers & the rooms being very small & tight made it very warm sleeping, tho tired & wet with swet, I lay me down to rest and slept part of the night.

June 4. The sea being somewhat rough some of the passengers were sick this morning. The wind continues to blow all afternoon & night, causing the high waves to roll and dash against the vessel with violence. At night as I was seated on the Guard, a heavy 33 wave struck the boat front, the water passing to the upper deck wetting many of the deck passengers who were stretched on the floor asleep, causing quite a stir, some balling at the top of their voices which caused the captain to appear amongst them. Feel quite unwell tonight.

June 5. Wind & waves continue high all day causing nearly all the passengers to be sick. A wave occasionally swipes the decks & makes the boat feel as if she had struck land. Quite unwell all day.

Sunday June 6th

Wind continues to blow hard and very rough sea, a great many of the passengers sick. I have been sick all day—miserable fare & filthy boat. Rooms small & hot, not fit for a man to sleep in.

June 7. This morning more pleasant. The sea being smoother. Passed in sight of Cuba to the west & San Domingo to the East. Afternoon high wind & rough sea. Feel quite unwell all day.

Mr. H. W. Harris, 20 years old, died & was buried today in the deep, deep ocean. Mr. Harris was from Kentucky and was very anxious to get to his friends before he died—but the ? destroyer consumption had too nearly accomplished its work before the young man started for home.

I was aroused early this morning by the crying of a lady — I jumped from my berth and looked out, saw a lady with young infant in her arm, apparently in a dying condition & the distressed mother calling for help & pressing her babe to her breast with a kiss, saying don't leave me. The Dr. soon came & administered to the child & it still lives. I could not help shedding a tear to see the distressed mother clinging to her babe. Remembering my dear wife & little ones far, far away, tho my trust is in Him who is able to take care of us, and support us under every trial and affliction.

June 8. High wind & rough sea, passengers complaining about the fare. Saw several sail vessels. Feel some better today.

June 9. Morning clear & calm. At 8 the wind blew & quite a nice shower of rain fell, tho in a short time the rain & wind ceased and we had a nice smooth sea for the first time since leaving Aspinwall. Grumbling among the passengers about the fare. I feel some better today.

June 10. Morning clear & pleasant. The wind blew from the west causing the sea to be rough. At 10 clk at night passed Cape Hatrep (?) the point where the Central America was lost last September. This is usually a stormy place.

June 11. High wind & rough sea, quite cool all day. Had to draw on heavy clothing, feel quite well today. Several small sales in sight during the day.



June 12. Arrived at New York at 9 a.m. The rain was falling fast. We stopped at the Metropolitan House, and deposited our funds at the Bank of America,—and at 5 1/2 p.m. took boat on Eric Line for St. Louis. Continues to rain fast all day. Slept some on the seat in the car.

(Sunday)

June 13. Cloudy & cool all day, and occasionally misting rain. Arrived at Dunkirk at 4 p.m. being 4 hours behind time. Dunkirk is situated on the East of Lake Eric in a low wet land, tho is improving some. This is a point where a number of rail roads & telegraphs connect. Took a walk over town and along the Lake shore. Had headache all day. Stopped at East Hotel. Passed considerable distance down the Allegana River which was very high.

34

June 14. Started from Dunkirk at 9 a.m. and arrived at Cleveland at 3 p.m. The country is low, marshy land, thickly covered with timber. From Cleveland to Galeon the county is heavily timbered, the land higher & somewhat rolling. Arrived at Galian at 8 p.m. Started at 10 p.m. and arrived at Indianapolis at 7 a.m.

June 15. Started from Indianapolis at 8 a.m. and arrived at Terre Haute at 12 M. The Wabash river was very high, had washed away 30 to 40 yards of the rail road track which we have to go around in a flat boat. During the night one of the cars ran off the track causing a delay of some 5 hours. Arrived at Alton at 6 a.m.

June 16. Started from Alton at 7 on the steamer Baltimore, an old worn out vessel, and arrived at St. Louis at 8 1/2—took the cars at 4 p.m. and arrived at Jefferson City at 10, stopped at City Hotel.

June 17. Started across the river soon after breakfast, after a ride through mud and over a hilly country, arrived at Fulton; after taking dinner started for Mr. Bernard's where I arrived early in the afternoon, where I found my wife & three children.

June 18. In the afternoon went to see my Aunt Baskins who is quite old & feeble, feel quite unwell and after returning to Mr. Bernard's was very sick all night with severe headache & sick stomach, all night sufferings great.

June 19. Dr. Dillard gave me some medicine which relieved me. In bed most of the day.

June 20. Remained at Mr. Bernard's. Several friends called to see me. Sat up part of the day.

June 21. Remained at Mr. Bernard's. In afternoon Mrs. H & myself started to Dr. Dillard's, after riding about a mile returned as the clouds looked very much like rain.

June 22. (no entry - either he continued his diary in another book or the return to regular business and routine stopped the diary—probably the latter, as there are twelve blank pages in this book. On the page following this date is the following entry—an accurate summary of some earthquakes recorded in California in 1863 and 1864—showing that he picked the little book up after an interval of five years, and during the second sojourn in California. Again, one wonders where the record of the 1863-65 trip might be!)

1863 - Earthquake about 10th Dec. - light 1864 - Earthquake Feb. 26 - heavy shock “ “ March 5th “ “ “ “ 10 - moderate “ “ “ 29 - 10 1/2 oclk p.m. “ Severe” July 10 1/4 oclk p.m. (Now—another financial memo)—— 1858 - Col. Robert Campbell, Dr. June 16 - To cash (\$12,900.00

“30 By checkin from N. H. Scroggs 2729.83 “ 4 “ “ “ J& WRB & Co. 5900.00 July 2 “ “ “ Turner & Thom 4270.17 \$ 12900.00

(A well-tabulated “Bulletin” of the trip on the John L. Stephens from San Francisco is given, also the trip from Aspinwall on “Star of the East.”) ——

35

BULLETIN

## 1858 TRIP ON JOHN L. STEPHENS FROM SAN FRANCISCO

May 20 Latitude N Longitude W Miles "21 34 North 121 West 233 " 22 30. 41. 118 27 244 " 23 27. 44. 115 23 239 " 24 24. 34. 112 08 262 " 25 21. 49. 108 55 242 " 26 19. 18. 105 29 244 " 27 17. 40. 102 15 209 " 8 16. 26. 99 20 180 " 29 14. 48. 95 38 239 " 30 12. 59. 92 01 239 " 31 11. 08. 88 13 248 June 1 9. 17. 85. 06 215 " 2 7. 10. 81. 44 240 " 3 To Panama 200 3234 " " Aspinwall 49 3283

## TRIP FROM ASPINWALL ON STAR OF THE WEST

June 4 11. 4. 31. 18. 360 166 " 5 14. 18. 77. 29 186 " 6 17. 75. 40 206 " 7 20. 25. 74. 05 215 " 8 24. 03. 74. 11 234 " 9 29. 23. 73. 34 262 " 10 32. 53. 73. 32 269 " 11 37. 33. 73. 48 282 " 12 Arrived at New York 196 " 13 From N. Y. to Dunkirk 460 " " Dunkirk to St. Louis 700 " 17 " St. Louis to T. Bernard's 150 " 28 " . T. Bernard's to Westport 180

(Then follows some more financial memos)——

Thomas G. Richards & money rec'd by H & H 1858 Apl 15 To 1 cow to Noble 80.00 " 29 6 cows & 4 calves \$75 450.00 " 30 4 " 4 " 312.00 " " 1 " (not paid) " " 28 " & 14 calves \$59 1652.00 " " 5 " " (white) \$50 300.00 " " 10 " & 5 calves ? ? 500.00 \$3294.00 May 1 18 cows & 6 calves 900.00 \$4194.00 2 1 " calf (Irishman) 62.50 3 3 " " (Spaniard) 62.50 187.50 5 " 1 " (Irishman) 312.50 4 2 " at Benicia (not paid) 6 18 " & 3 calves \$65 1170.00 102 cows \$5926.50

36

5,926.50 Cash to Bray & Bro. 10,000.00 \$15,926.50

5,926.50 343.50 Total number 5,583.00 180 5,403.00 May 8 4 oxen ? at camp 203.00 5,200.00 " 5 mules delivered at camp " " 673 cows & mules " Ranch " " 102 " sold 584 584 Cattle \$42.50 \$24,820.00 " 7 19 cows " 807.50 603 " \$25,627.50

By cash \$15,926.50 " 18 " " 9,701.00 25,627.50

Total expenditures 15,000.00

603 to Richards 883 55 “ others 658 658 225 lost W. I. Dillon To 17 Plank 6/12

(On the next page his love of the Bible is revealed - he has copied Titus 2:11 to 14 verbatim; also Psalm 84:11; and parts of several verses which he failed to identify —

“The Sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in his wings.” (Mal. 4:2)

“Who hath known the mind of the Lord, or who hath been his counsellor.” (Rom. 11:34)

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God.” (Rom. 11:33)

2400 ft fencing 6 inches wide 675 “ “ 8 “ 150 posts 125 ? 3x12 ft

I wrote to Cornelia as follows: 1858 Jany 16 from San Francisco, California “ 24 “ San Bernardino “ Feby 6 “ Los Angeles “ “ 16 “ Santa Barbara “ Mar. 27 “ San Juan “ “ 29 “ Gilroy “ Apl. 2 “ San Francisco “ “ 11 “ Gilroy “ 15 “ Gilroy “ 24 “ San Francisco

37

(1858) May Cash paid ferriage 272.50 “ 9 “ “ Theodore 20.00 “ “ Dave 26.00 “ “ R ? 5.00 “ “ for expense 20.00 “ “ Ex. from W. C.) 343.50 to Ranch ) 100.00

H. E. Green Amsterdam, N. Y.

Montgomery Co. Write by the 10 July in regard to ewes & lambs & young ?

(On the last sheet is a Spanish vocabulary, which he no doubt was utilizing in order to converse with the Spanish speaking Californians. The spelling is purely phonetic, and descriptive, if not Spanish!) caliente warm igri wind ki aw wah rain ow e today my ya nah tomorrow passando mi ya nah - 3d day Ben a cah come vamos go Espa arata stop ono sa manna 1 week on mace 1 month on anyo 1 year mohow wet secco dry Ono 1 Doce 2 trace 3 quarto 4 Sinco 5 sace 6 sietta 7 ocho 8 nu

a va 9 di a si 10 on si 11 do si 12 tra si 13 cha to si 14 kin sa 15 di a si ase 16 di a si etta 17 dia si  
ocho 18 di a sin wa va 19 Benta 20 benta ono 21 tran tah 30 quarantah 40 sin quen tah 50 sa sen tah  
60 sa ten tah 70 ocha entah 80 no ven tah 90 si ento 100 ono mil 1000 dos mil 2000

In the back are numerous notes which appear to have been jotted down hastily enroute: Jany 26  
from San Bernardino from San Margarita to Paso Robles 10 mi ??? spring about 5 miles from Pas  
Robles San Magill 15 take left hand road 38 Massemento Creek 6 grass & water Old adoba house 8  
“ “ Las pases Ranch 8 “ “ Camps between these places Coxes Ranch 15 Camp between these places  
Soledad Mission 22 cross Salinus Allisah Ranch 14 12 mile house 12 good place to stop San Juan  
12 on right hand side cross creek 4 miles take left hand road New Gilroy 14 up canon

Sophia leaves Alviso on Monday, Wednesday & Friday on the arrival of stage for San Francisco

J. L. Hatcher wants a first rate silk velvet vest at Keys on Clay St.

E. A. Perry Co. 300. By cash 162.25 137.75 \$300.00 To Paid for ticket 153.25 Bill at Am Exchg  
7.50 “ “ Acapulco 1.50 Paid Hatcher 137.75 \$300.00

March 1858 - \$16,1120.00

Montezuma Hills, Salono County West of Sacramento river, 10 miles East of ? City, 30 miles of  
Sacramento City, best grazing place in the valley.

Golden Gate is an unsafe boat 473 at ranch Solano 9 at camp 102 sold (quite a jumble of figures  
hear) 656 head stock Major Hendricks ? San Isabel Mattingly & Johnston

(And so ends the memos in the little green book, in the fly leaf of which is the signature which is  
traced below — J G Hamilton's Memorandum Nov 1848

We have no history of James Gillespie Hamilton prior to his residence in Missouri, but what we  
have learned of him tells us that he was, in a quiet way, a very great man. From various sources we  
have bits of genealogical information concerning the Hamiltons, some of which are given in “My

Dear Cornelia”, page IV 39 of Preface. There is a Hamilton coat-of-arms which has been located by Anne Hamilton, (daughter of Bernard Finley Hamilton the sixth child of James and Cornelia Hamilton) who resides in Washington, D. C. A description of this coat-of-arms is given in a book in the Los Angeles public library — an artistic and fascinating little volume entitled -

“Hamiltons of Ogden Center and their antecedents, of Norwich, Colchester, Nova Scotia and the British Island, together with an account of several related families by James Alexander Hamilton” (“Designed and made into a book by the Saunders Studio - 25 copies printed only” — it was Copy No. 21, marked as a gift to the Library. 1930)

It tells the story of Sir Gilbert Hamilton who took the motto “Through” and chose an oak cut by a saw for his Crest in memory of his deliverance by posing as a woodcutter when he was fleeing from the wrath of King Edward II to King Robert Bruce of Scotland.

Another interesting little book in the Los Angeles Public Library - “Ancestral Lines of the Doniphan-Frazee-Hamilton families by Frances Frazee Hamilton” speaks of the first man to bear the name of Hamilton - “Sir Walter Fitz Gilbert de Hameldone” who was a favorite of King Robert Bruce of Scotland, and whose decent is authentically traced from the Duke of Normandy, father of William the Conqueror, down through the Beaumonts. From these and other sources it seems that the Beaumonts, Bellomontes, were the same, both bearing on their crest the same three cinquefoils used on the Hamilton Crest—and that one Bernard of France was the progenitor of the Bellomontes.

Tho union of the Hamiltons and Bernards generations later is interesting—one wonders just where James Gillespie Hamilton and Cornelia Bernard fit into the pattern. The arresting similarity of the Latin mottos on both coats-of-arms is intriguing —

Hamilton - “Solo nobilitos virtus” translated as “Virtue is noble in itself” or “Virtue only is noble.”

Bernard - “Virtus pro bata florebit” translated “Virtue proven will flourish.”

As we ponder these miscellaneous memos of James Gillespie Hamilton we feel that, appropriately, “Virtue only is noble” was his creed. A warm affection surges through us—a love and admiration for the grandfather we never met, and we feel that we know him very well! We are grateful for him and his beloved Cornelia and all the others like them who migrated from care-free plantations in the Old South to carry civilization into the ever-widening west of the nineteenth century.

And as our thoughts turn again to the old Union Cemetery in Kansas City and the monument bearing the name “Hamilton” we feel humbly aware of the eternality of the individual expression of the virtues of faith, honesty, courage, kindness,—true nobility!